

Q WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A rear derailleur for bicycle gear changes, comprising a top body or hanger bracket (12) and a bottom body or pulley-cage bracket (14) connected together by means of an articulated-parallelogram mechanism (16) which comprises a pair of links (26, 28) articulated to the hanger bracket (12) and to the pulley-cage bracket (14) by means of pins (30, 32) defining the axes of articulation of the articulated-parallelogram mechanism, each of the aforesaid pins (30, 32) engaging aligned holes (48, 50) of one of the brackets (12, 14) and one of the links (26, 28) and being constrained against sliding out in the direction of its own axis,

characterized in that the axial constraint of each pin (30, 32) is obtained by means of at least one washer (34) having snap-action engagement portions (40) which co-operate with an annular groove (36) of the pin (30, 32).

2. The derailleur according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aforesaid snap-action engagement portions (40) are elastically deformable following upon insertion in the axial direction of the pin (30, 32) inside a hole (44) made in the washer (34).

3. The derailleur according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aforesaid washer (34) has a continuous annular portion or rim (38) provided with integral projections, radially directed inwards, which form the aforesaid snap-action engagement portions (40).

4. The derailleur according to Claim 3, characterized in that the aforesaid snap-action engagement portions (40) are separated from one another in the circumferential direction by notches or

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incisions (42).

5. The derailleur according to Claim 3, characterized in that the through hole (44) of the washer (34) has a diameter smaller than that of the outer cylindrical surface of the corresponding pin (30, 32).

6. The derailleur according to Claim 5, characterized in that each pin (30, 32) has a lead-in chamfer (52) at one or both of its ends.

7. The derailleur according to Claim 1, characterized in that the annular groove (36) of each pin (30, 32) establishes a shape fit with the aforesaid snap-action engagement portions (40).

8. The derailleur according to Claim 7, characterized in that the annular groove (36) of each pin (30, 32) has angles substantially of 90°.

9. The derailleur according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aforesaid washer (34) is housed in a groove or notch (46) formed in one end portion of one of said links (26).

10. The derailleur according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aforesaid washer (34) is housed between two surfaces facing one another of one of said brackets (12, 14) and one of said links (28).

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